

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS
SUPREME COURT OF ARKANSAS



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**JUDICIAL ELECTION TASK FORCE
GUEST SPEAKERS AUG. 5, 2011**

The Judicial Election Task Force, appointed by the Arkansas Supreme Court, will discuss potential changes regarding judicial selection in Arkansas. The group is being proactive in trying to avoid some of the issues faced in other states. Judicial elections are becoming much more expensive, vitriolic, and are receiving more interest from third-party donors. See the Iowa and Wisconsin elections for examples.

The Task Force has narrowed its focus to four main areas:

1. Voter Guides
2. Rapid Response Teams
3. Runoff Election Changes (e.g. three weeks after the primary election or instant runoff voting)
4. Recusals

The next meeting is **Aug. 5, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at the Arkansas Bar Center** on Cottondale Lane in Little Rock. The Task Force has invited guests to speak to election issues in Arkansas and to comment on the areas outlined above. The guests will each speak for about fifteen minutes. They are:

- Hon. Wendell Griffin, Circuit Judge for the 6th Judicial District and former Court of Appeals Judge;
- Hon. Jon Comstock, Circuit Judge for the 19th Judicial District West;
- Michael Boyd, Magnolia Attorney and representative of the Arkansas Trial Lawyers Assoc.; and
- Walter Murray, Little Rock Attorney and representative of the Arkansas Association of Defense Counsel.

The group hopes to present recommendations to the Judicial Council at its October meeting. Please see the next page for background resources.

[Please note: I will be out of the office from July 29-Aug. 11, but I will respond if you need anything from me. Otherwise, contact Karolyn Bond, AOC, at 501-682-9400.]

For further information, contact:

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<http://votingforjudges.org> (Washington state voter's guide)

<http://www.judicialselection.us/> (American Judicature Society page on judicial selection across the country)

<http://ncsc.org> (National Center for State Courts)

<http://justiceatstake.org> (see "The New Politics of Judicial Elections, 2000-2009: Decade of Change")

<http://instantrunoff.com>